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## Letter from Oklahoma-Catalogs from Publishers

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# Letter from Oklahoma

## Books from North Carolina

by Tom Leonhardt (University of Oklahoma) <tleonhardt@ou.edu>



The very name North Carolina makes me wistful and homesick, and I get a special pleasure when I run across a publisher's catalogue from North Carolina. Imagine my feelings as I gaze at four 1996 catalogs, all from my home state: Parkway Publishers, Inc. (Boone); McFarland & Company (Jefferson); Algonquin Books (Chapel Hill), and the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

The Parkway catalog is only twelve pages long and measures 9"x4.25". It is bound in stiff wrappers and stapled. The cover shows the house logo, a brick tunnel entrance. There are only eleven titles listed for 1996, but if you ordered each book (about \$337.40 + S&H) you would learn (assuming you read the books) about *Fungi on Rhododendron: A World Reference* by David F Farr, et al., *Mycology in Sustainable Development: Expanding Concepts and Vanishing Borders (Proceedings of an International Workshop)*, *A Mansion in the Mountains: The Story of Moses and Bertha Cone and their Blowing Rock Manor* by Philip T. Noblitt, *Living with Autism: The Parents' Stories*, by Kathleen Dillon, *Between Inquiry and Advocacy: An Examination of the Pragmatic Foundations of Academic Public Policy Study*, by E. Robert Statham, Jr., *The Plough and the Pen: Paul S. Gross and the Establishment of the Spokane Hutterian Brethren*, by Vance Joseph Youmans, *Ransom Street Quartet: Poems and Stories*, by Juanita Brown Tobin, *Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide Open: Mr. Justice Brennan's Legacy to the*

*First Amendment*, by Robert D. Richards, *The Five Themes of Geography: Geography Across the Curriculum Teacher's Activity Guide (Grades K-5)*, by Cheryl S. Knight, *The Subtle Slant: A Cross-Linguistic Discourse Analysis Model for Evaluating Interethnic Conflict in the Press*, by Richard C. McGarry, and *Biosystematic Monograph of the Genus Cucumis (Cucurbitaceae): Botanical Identification of Cucumbers and Melons*, by Joseph H. Kirkbridge, Jr.

For each title there is a brief description of the book, a note on the author, and quotes from reviews when available. There are photographs, too, including a charming one of Juanita Brown Tobin in her scarf and beret. "Juanita Tobin, who was born in 1915, lives in Blowing Rock, North Carolina in a cottage built by her grandparents on land bartered for with a pump organ in 1896. These poems and stories reflect her life: childhood, life with a man named Simon, her work with patients at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, and retirement." I can't afford or justify buying for myself all of the titles in this eclectic list, but Ms. Tobin's book speaks to me from afar and costs only \$14.95.

The McFarland catalog is for its new books, fall 1996. This is a wonderful list but one book in particular caught my eye. Earlier in the day of this writing, I read in the *Sunday New York Times* (November 24, 1996) about the Jewish books residing in the National Library of Lithuania. They have been uncovered and are being cataloged and

filmed (newspapers and periodicals, only) at a slow pace amidst a debate about what to do with them, keep them there in dismal conditions where use will be low, or move them to New York City or Jerusalem where they will receive better care and heavier use. McFarland has published *Hunger for the Printed Word: Books and Libraries in the Jewish Ghettos in Nazi-Occupied Europe*, by David Shavit, a librarian at Northern Illinois State University in DeKalb. These cultural treasures have survived the Nazis and the Soviet communists. "This work details the story of libraries in five of the largest ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe: Lodz and Warsaw in Poland, Lovno and Vilna in Lithuania and Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia."

You'll learn from this catalog that no African Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during World War II as a matter of policy. *The Exclusion of Black Soldiers from the Medal of Honor in World War II*, by Elliot V. Converse and others tells this sordid tale. "Based on this very work, the U.S. Army forwarded in May 1996 the names of seven African Americans to Congress and the White House as potential recipients of the Medal of Honor."

How about these titles, on facing pages: *Behind the G-String: An Exploration of the Stripper's Image, Her Person and Her Meaning* by David A. Scott and *Santa Claus, Last of the Wild Men: The Origins and Evolution of Saint Nicholas, Spanning 50,000 Years* by Phyllis Siefker. I don't know which one to read first. With Christmas so close, I should probably learn more about that jolly old elf, a.k.a. the Wild Thing. There is no photograph or illustration accompanying the G string (wasn't that a piece by Bach?) but we are treated to a drawing of "Dutch Santa, 1848," a pipe-smoking fellow in a fur cap, buckle shoes, and a bag of presents. He has a beard, too, and may be dressed all in red, but we will have to colorize this particular picture if we are to see red.

This catalog also lists *Wireless Radio: A History*, by Lewis Coe, *Stormy Escape: A Vietnamese Woman's Account of Her Flight Through Cambodia to Thailand* by Kim Ha, and *An Iraqi Jew in Mossad: Memoir of an Israeli Intelligence Officer* by Joshua Horesh. And on page 15 I am reminded that McFarland publishes the *Journal of Information Ethics*, edited by Robert Hauptman.

I do not know the people at McFarland and slightly know the publishers at Parkway but regardless of familiarity, I am sure that neither house is in the publishing business

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# Profiles Encouraged:

Tom Gilson



**Born:** Brooklyn, NY, December 21. I was just over 5 pounds, but you'd never know it now.

**Educated:** I got my BA in general history from St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY. My library

degree came from SUNY Buffalo. I have a second masters in Public Administration which was a joint degree from the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina.

**Jobs:** My first professional job was as a reference librarian at Greenville (SC) Public Library. Later I became Head of the Arts and AV department there and, still later, Director of Oconee County Public Library in the northern part of SC. When I moved to Charleston to get my MPA, I was lucky enough to become a reference librarian and then Head of Reference Services at the College of Charleston Libraries.

**After many years (23!) as a reference librarian:** I am struck by the dramatic increase in the required knowledge base to do an effective job. What we do is getting more and more complex and we are becoming more essential and valuable. But we still seem to be making the same salaries!

**Family:** A daughter (21) who is now in nursing school. Recently married to Carol, an accomplished artist who teaches language arts in middle school. Also a dog Sally and a cat Revis.

**Hobbies:** Back-packing and attempting to play the guitar. Also I get a dose of cross-country skiing every year when I visit my sister, husband and two kids in Denver, Colorado.

**Pet peeve:** The increasingly common notion that everything is on the Internet. People are forgetting the value of print and other electronic resources. When students say, "my professor told me to look on the Internet," that's not always the place I would start. The Internet is the "fast food" version of information retrieval.

**People would be surprised to know:** That I'm not as anal retentive as my staff thinks.

**New Year's resolution:** To exercise and eat right just like everybody. I'll have the same resolution next year.

## From the Reference Desk from page 34

An *Encyclopedia* is volume one of a projected series of encyclopedias dealing with the history of science and offers a promising start.

An area of increasing interest in the field of literary criticism deals with feminist theory. The *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory*, also published by Garland (1997, 0-8153-0824-8, \$75) gives students a convenient overview of this growing field of scholarship. The articles deal with important terms and concepts, individual feminist critics, and specific literary periods. Arrangement is alphabetical with an index at the end of the volume. Article content is scholarly but accessible. There are useful bibliographies with each article, and in fact many of

the articles are informed by a sense of bibliography. In many cases the authors highlight the significant literature in the field within the text of the article. In general, Garland should be complimented on the attention to bibliography in their one-volume encyclopedias. However, it would also be helpful to have a table of contents to assist readers in getting a better idea of the scope of the volume and a better developed "see also" cross referencing arrangement. The *History of Astronomy: An Encyclopedia* did not seem to have any "see also" references and the *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory* had some but they were in the index rather than conveniently placed with the articles themselves. Overall, however, both sources are worthwhile contributions which deserve consideration by reference librarians collecting in these areas. 🐾

## Letters from Oklahoma from page 36

in order to perform miracles to store away against beatification in the future. But a look at the titles in their lists and I am reassured that there are publishers in business who personally care about their authors and their books. I suspect that the same applies to the next two publishers, even though Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill is a division of Workman Publishing in New York, and the Historical Publications Section of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History is part of the Department of Cultural Resources. The lists of these two houses speaks well of Workman and the Tarheel State, sometimes known as the Old North State.

The North Carolina catalog is 1/2 inch narrower than Parkway's but standing up they are head to toe the same height. It contains sections on the Civil War (the War Between the States), rosters of North Carolina troops from 1861-1865 (both of my families are represented on those rolls), Coastal North Carolina (*Triumph at Kitty Hawk: The Wright Brothers and Powered Flight* by Thomas C. Parramore), North Carolina's African American Heritage (*The Black Experience in North Carolina* by Jeffrey J. Crow), and Life and Culture in North Carolina (*A History of Sports in North Carolina* by Jim L. Sumner and *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* by Brent D. Glass) to name but a few.

In addition to its regularly catalog of publications, Algonquin Books also issues a wonderful series called *The Algonkian*. If you have never seen it, write to Algonquin Books at P.O. Box 2225, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2225. "The *Algonkian* is a small periodical about books, authors, and publishing, prepared from time to time for the friends of Algonquin and any others who might take joy in it. ... The *Algonkian* is distributed gratis to such as care to receive it by Workman Publishing, 708 Broadway, New York,

NY 10003." Thank you, Workman Publishing. More about *The Algonkian* at another time.

The Algonquin catalog is 8 1/2" x 11" and features a cover illustration by Pat Scheible — an overflowing bowl of fruit with two trumpet blowing angels above and to either side. It looks like fall to me. You might expect to find books about North Carolina or by North Carolinians in this catalog and sure enough, the first book listed is Jill McCorkle's *Carolina Moon*. "Its geographical setting is the part of eastern North Carolina I grew up in, a town that is near both the ocean and a river." This is how Jill McCorkle describes her fifth (and latest) novel. For the full story and a picture of Ms. McCorkle, see pages 17-19 in the June 1996 issue of *The Algonkian*, the one with a picture of Blind Lemon Jefferson on the cover.

Algonquin also publishes the fiction of Chapel Hill resident Lee Smith and features her *The Christmas Letters: A Novella*, also described in the Blind Lemon Jefferson issue of *The Algonkian* and there is a picture of Ms. Smith there, too. In this same issue of the Algonquin fall catalog is another Christmas book, *Let Us Now Praise Christmas Cooking: A Reminiscence and a Recipe* by Camille Glenn. The catalog entry lists a few of the recipes by name only: Oyster and Clam Chowder, Easy Bread Sticks, Colonial Gingerbread, Tangerine Sherbet and Winter Crystal Cookies, Creole Shrimp with Rice, and New Orleans Madeleines. On page 31 of the June 1996 *Algonkian* there is a full recipe from the book, for "Four Star Cornmeal Butterflake Biscuits."

Algonquin's fall 1996 list also includes *Yak Butter and Black Tea: A Journey into Forbidden China* by Wade Brackenbury, *100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names*, by Diana Wells, Illustrations by Ippy Patterson, *Good Bugs For Your Garden*, written and illustrated by Allison Mia Starcher, and *The Emperor's Virtual Clothes*:

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## Accreditation Game from page 22

user-friendly manner and when Internet access is reliable. Recognition of the ease of use of electronic resources is growing and accreditors are increasingly sensitive to the large-scale financial commitment to these resources on the part of libraries. Accrediting teams also seem to be growing in sensitivity to libraries' need to conserve space and funds and they are not opposed to the notion of document delivery and fulltext online access to journals, provided that the access is user-friendly and reliable.

### Conclusion

Regardless of the academic discipline under review, accreditation agencies consistently look for these components when evaluating departments: the range and depth of subjects offered; departmental lab facilities if appropriate; departmental and campus-wide computer and tutorial facilities; specialty areas, research, teaching, and service work among the teaching faculty; library facilities. Regarding specific library components, accreditors examine the overall range of library services, the accessibility of the library and its collections (including hours that the library is open and staffing levels), and relevancy and currency of library collections.

### Bottom Line

The most important factor is for the entire campus to showcase itself as a unified, mutually informed whole when presenting its programs to the visiting accreditation teams. Evaluators cannot help but be impressed by high levels of cooperation and the library's true understanding of the knowl-

edge base for which the department under review is responsible. And, customized packaging of library resources shows a keen level of preparedness. A well-organized campus with a high degree of inter-departmental cooperation sends a positive message to visitors — as powerfully as the quality of the program itself. 🐼

## Letter from Oklahoma from page 38

*Naked Truth about Internet Culture*, by Dinty W. Moore. The Internet book is actually from the backlist but you see by it the variety of titles that Algonquin carries, too, not just Southern fiction, although that would not be a bad line to get stuck in.

And as if this isn't enough to make the heart start pining for home, the husband of a second cousin has got me listening to WTOB (Winston-Salem, North Carolina) on the World Wide Web <<http://www.wtob.com>>.

Harold Birdsong is the advertising manager for WTOB and is interested in using the Internet to expand the audience and the advertising of his station. It features CNN news, North Carolina news, and several talk shows. The reception is clear and the local accents familiar. Tune in and give a listen. Tell them that Tom sent you (they have an email address for easy correspondence). Readers need news, too, and here is a great way to tune in without turning on.

Happy new year to each and every one of you gentle readers. 🐼

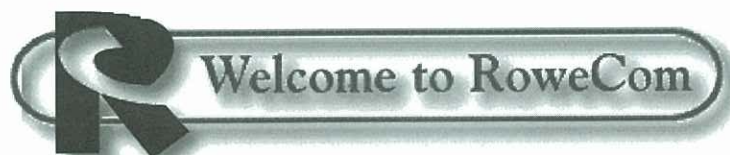
## Back Talk from page 82

Ward Shaw announced that he is interested in finding some major research libraries which would be willing let him market access to their contents. This is only the beginning. Some will view this kind of cooperation as an anath-

ema to the goals of higher education, others will look upon it as the democratization of information access at last. I am in the latter camp. By the way, Ward isn't the devil but I thought it might cause you to read this last sound byte.

Cooperation is not dead. It lives in new clothes. 🐼

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• link  
• to less  
• work  
• and  
• lower cost



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